His Majesties DECLARATION AGAINST THE States Generall OF THE UNITED PROVINCES OF THE LOW-COUNTREYS.

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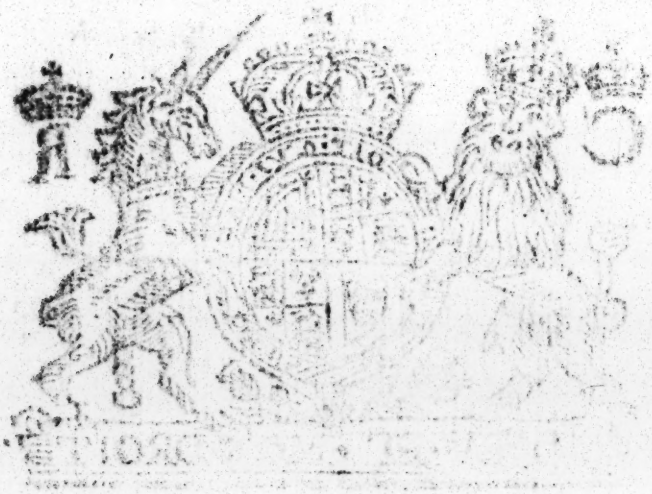

HIS MAJESTIES DECLARATION

Againſt the STATES GENERAL of the *United Provinces* of the *Low-Countreys*.

WE have been alwayes ſo Zealous for the Quiet of *Chriſtendom*, and ſo Careful not to Invade any other Kingdom or State, that We hope the World will do us the Juſtice to believe, That it is nothing but inevitable Neceſſity forceth Us to the reſolution of taking up Arms.

Immediately upon Our Reſtauration to Our Crown, the firſt work We undertook, was the eſtabliſhing of Peace, and the ſetling a good Correſpondence between Us and Our Neighbours; and in particular, Our care was, to conclude a ſtrict League with the *States General* of the *United Provinces*, upon ſuch equal Terms, as would certainly not have been broken, if any Obligations could have kept them within the bounds of Friendſhip or Juſtice.

This League was maintained inviolable on Our part. But in the Year 1664. We were ſtirred up by the Complaints of Our People, and the unanimous Vote of

Both Our Houſes of Parliament, finding it a vain Attempt to endeavour the proſperity of Our Kingdoms by peaceable wayes at Home, whil'ſt Our Subjects were ſtill expoſed to the Injuries and Oppreſſions of thoſe *States* abroad.

That whole Summer was ſpent in Negotiations and Endeavours on Our ſide, to bring them to reaſonable Terms, which notwithſtanding all We could do, proved at length ineffectual; for the more We purſued them with friendly Propoſitions, the more Obſtinately they kept off from agreeing with Us.

Upon this enſued the War in the Year 1665. and continued to the Year 1667. In all which time, Our Victories, and their Loſſes, were memorable enough to put them in mind of being more Faithful to their Leagues for the Future. But inſtead of that, the Peace was no ſooner made, but they returned to their uſual Cuſtom of breaking Articles, and ſupplanting Our Trade. For inſtance, The *States* were particularly engaged in an Article of the Treaty at *Breda*, to ſend Commiſſioners to Us at *London*, about the Regulation of Our Trade in the *Eaſt-Indies*; but they were ſo far from doing it upon that Obligation, That when We ſent over Our Ambaſſador to put them in mind of it, he could not in Three years time get from them any ſatisfaction in the material Points, nor a Forbearance of the wrongs which Our Subjects received in thoſe Parts.

In the *Weſt-Indies* they went a little further; For by an Article in the ſame Treaty, We were to reſtore *Surinam* into their Hands, and by Articles upon the place confirmed by that Treaty, they were to give Liberty to all Our Subjects in that Colony, to Tranſport them-

themſelves and their Eſtates into any other of Our Plantations. In purſuance of this Agreement, We delivered up the Place, and yet they detained all Our men in it; onely Major *Baniſter* they ſent away Priſoner, for but deſiring to remove according to the Articles. Our Ambaſſador complaining of this behaviour, after Two years ſollicitation, obtained an Order for the performance of thoſe Articles: But when We ſent Commiſſioners, and Two Ships to bring Our men away, the *Hollanders* (according to their former practice in the buſineſs of *Poleroon* for above Forty years together) ſent private orders, contradictory to thoſe they had owned to Us in Publick; and ſo the onely effect of Our Commiſſioners Journey thither, was, to bring away ſome few of the pooreſt of Our Subjects, and the Prayers and Cryes of the Moſt conſiderable and wealthieſt of them, for Relief out of that Captivity. After this, We made Our Complaints by Our Letter in *Auguſt* laſt, to the *States General*, wherein We deſired an Order to their Governors there, for the full obſervance of thoſe Articles; yet to this time We could never receive one word of Anſwer or Satisfaction.

But it is no wonder that they venture at theſe Outrages upon Our Subjects in Remote parts, when they dare be ſo bold with Our Royal Perſon, and the Honour of this Nation ſo near Us, as in their own Countrey, there being ſcarce a Town within their Territories, that is not filled with abuſive Pictures, and falſe Hiſtorical Medals and Pillars; ſome of which have been expoſed to the Publick view by command of the *States* themſelves, and in the very time when We were joyned with them in United Councels for the ſupport of the Triple League, and the Peace of *Chriſtendom*. This alone were cauſe ſufficient for Our diſpleaſure,

and

and the resentment of all Our Subjects. But We are urged to it by considerations yet nearer to Us, than what onely relates to Our Self; the Safety of Our Trade, upon which the wealth and prosperity of Our People depends, the preservation of them abroad from Violence and Oppression, and the *Hollanders* daring to Affront Us almost within Our very Ports, are the Things which move Our just Indignation against them.

The Right of the *Flagg* is so ancient, That it was one of the first Prerogatives of Our Royal Predecessors, and ought to be the last from which this Kingdom should ever depart. It was never questioned, and it was expresly acknowledged in the Treaty at *Breda*; and yet this last Summer it was not only violated by their Commanders at Sea, and that Violation afterwards justified at the *Hague*, but it was also represented by them in most Courts of *Christendom*, as ridiculous for Us to demand. An ungrateful Insolence! That they should contend with Us about the Dominion of these Seas, who even in the Reign of Our Royal Father, thought it an Obligation to be permitted to Fish in them, by taking of Licenses, and for a Tribute; and who owe their being now in a condition of making this Dispute, to the Protection of Our Ancestors, and the Valour and Blood of their Subjects.

In the years
1635.
1636.
1637.

Notwithstanding all these Provocations, We patiently expected Satisfaction, not being willing to expose the Peace of *Christendom* for Our particular Resentments, whilest they ceased not on their parts to endeavour to provoke the *Most Christian King* against Us; of which they thought themselves so secure, that for above these Twelve months their Ministers here have threatned Us with it.

At length, hearing nothing from them, We sent another

other Ambaſſador to them, who, after ſeveral preſſing Memorials in Our Name, could receive no Anſwer, till after he had declared his Revocation. Then they offered a Paper to this effect, That in this Conjuncture they would condeſcend to Strike to Us, if We would aſſiſt them againſt the *French*; but upon condition, that it ſhould never be taken for a Preſident hereafter to their prejudice.

Since the Return of our ſaid Ambaſſador, They have ſent an Extraordinary One to Us, who in a moſt extraordinary manner has given Us to underſtand, That he can offer Us no Satisfaction till he hath ſent back to his Maſters.

Wherefore, deſpairing now of any good effect of a further Treaty, We are compelled to take up Arms in Defence of the Ancient Prerogative of our Crowns, and the Glory and Safety of Our Kingdoms; And We put our Truſt in God, that He will give Us His aſſiſtance in this Our juſt Undertaking, ſince We had no way left to defend Our People from the Artifice of that Nation in Peace, but by the Valour of Our Subjects in War.

We have therefore thought fit to Declare, and do hereby Declare, That we will proſecute War both by Sea and Land againſt the *States General* of the *United Provinces*, and all their Subjects and Inhabitants: Hereby enjoyning Our moſt dear and moſt entirely beloved Brother the *Duke of York* Our High Admiral, Our Lieutenants of Our ſeveral Counties, Governours of Our Forts and Garriſons, and all other Officers and Souldiers under them by Sea and Land, to oppoſe all the Attempts of the *States General* of the *United Provinces*, or their Subjects; and to do, and execute all Acts of Hoſtility in the proſecution of this War againſt the

the ſaid *States General* of the *United Provinces*, their Vaſſals, Subjects, and Inhabitants; Willing and Requiring all Our Subjects to take Notice of the ſame, Whom We henceforth ſtraightly forbid, on Pain of Death, to hold any Correſpondence or Communication with the ſaid *States General*, or their Subjects (thoſe only excepted, who are neceſſitated thereunto for the withdrawing their Perſons and Eſtates out of the *United Provinces*) And becauſe there are remaining in Our Kingdoms many Subjects of the *States General* of the *United Provinces*, We do Declare, and give Our Royal Word, That all ſuch of the *Dutch* Nation, as ſhall demean themſelves Dutifully towards Us, and not Correſpond with Our Enemies, ſhall be ſafe in their Perſons and Eſtates, and free from all moleſtation and trouble of any kind.

And further We do Declare, That if any of the *Low-Countrey* Subjects, either out of Affection to Us, or Our Government, or becauſe of the Oppreſſion they meet with at Home, ſhall come into Our Kingdoms, they ſhall be by Us protected in their Perſons and Eſtates.

And whereas We are engaged by a Treaty to ſupport the Peace made at *Aix la Chapelle*, We do finally Declare, That notwithſtanding the proſecution of this War, We will maintain the true Intent and Scope of the ſaid Treaty; and that in all the Alliances which We have or ſhall make in the progreſs of this War, We have and will take care to preſerve the Ends thereof inviolable, unleſs provoked to the contrary.

FINIS.